



**DRINKING WATER WARNING**  
**BOIL WATER OR USE BOTTLED WATER**  
**To All Users of Montague Center Water District**  
**Drinking Water**  
Located in Montague, Massachusetts



This is an important notice. Please translate it for anyone who does not understand English.

Our water system monitors for the presence of drinking water contaminants to ensure the safety of the water supply. On Tuesday, November 3, 2015, we were notified that a routine water sample collected from our water storage tank on Monday, November 2, 2015 tested positive for *E. coli*, which is a fecal indicator. Total coliform bacteria were also detected in one repeat water sample collected from the water storage tank on Wednesday, November 4, 2015. No total coliform or *E. coli* were detected in the other three repeat water samples collected from the distribution system.

**What Should I Do?**

- **DO NOT DRINK THE WATER WITHOUT BOILING IT FIRST OR USE BOTTLED WATER**  
Bring all water to a rolling boil and let it **boil for at least one (1) minute** or use bottled water. You may cool the boiled water before using. Boiled or bottled water should be used for drinking, making ice, food preparation, brushing teeth and washing dishes **until further notice**. Boiling kills bacteria and other organisms in the water.
- This information is also located on the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) website:  
*Consumer Information on Boil Orders*  
<http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/massdep/water/drinking/consumer-information-on-boil-orders.html>  
*Boil Order Frequently Asked Questions*  
<http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/ma/water/drinking/boil-water-order-faq.html>
- **Discard** all ice, beverages, uncooked foods, and formula made with tap water collected on or after **Tuesday, November 2, 2015**.
- **Food establishments** must follow Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MA DPH) procedures and the direction of their local board of health, which may be more stringent than the DPH guide.  
MA DPH - Guidance for Emergency Action Planning for Retail Food Establishments (pg. 19)  
<http://www.mass.gov/eohhs/docs/dph/environmental/foodsafety/emergency-action-plans.pdf>
- **Please share this information** with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly.

**What Does this Mean?**

*E. coli* is a fecal indicator and it was detected in the distribution system at the storage tank. *"Fecal indicators are microbes whose presence indicates that the water may be contaminated with human or animal wastes. Microbes in these wastes can cause diarrhea, cramps, nausea, headaches, or other symptoms. They may pose a special health risk for infants, young children, some of the elderly, and people with severely compromised immune systems."* Because these symptoms are not only caused by organisms in drinking water, if you experience any of these symptoms and they persist, or, if you have specific health concerns, consult your doctor. General guidelines on ways to lessen the risk of infection by microbes are available from the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

**What is Being Done?**

On Thursday, November 5, 2015, we took our water storage tank off-line to look for signs of contamination and activated the interconnection with the Turners Falls Water Department to provide water to our system. We are in contact with MassDEP and our water operator who are evaluating the actions we are taking to ensure safe water is being delivered to you. We will be taking additional water samples to determine if the problem is corrected. We anticipate resolving the problem as soon as possible and will inform you when you no longer need to boil your water or use alternate sources of water (bottled water).

**For more information:**

Contact: Gary Dion at (413) 413-367-9912